THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHIR MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The study commissioned to assess the impact of various regulatory restrictions contemplated to control and reduce tobacco consumption in the country on direct employment in tobacco industry, envisages that the impact on employment scenario in the tobacco sector will be directly proportional to the rate of reduction in consumption of tobacco. However, the effect of reduction will be felt over different time frames by various labour segments such as cultivators, manufacturers, processors, agents, traders, etc. in the field.

The appropriate authorities are advised from time to time to take into account the concerns of various organisations while initiating actions on such issues.

Socio-Economic Status of Tendu-Leaf Collectors

4945. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Labour Welfare has made any assessment of the socio-economic status of the Tendu leaf collector in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, when this study was completed;

(c) whether any State-wise data has been compiled;

(d) if so, the State-wise figures of Tendu leaf collectors;

(e) whether DGLW has initiated any programme for their welfare; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (f) Tendu leaf collection is a seasonal activity in which large number of workers are involved, mainly in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. No official study has been commissioned on their socio-economic status.

Although tendu leaf collectors in the country are wide spread and their number is reported to be large, their exact size so far has not been reflected in any Census report. Some State Governments provide various kinds of welfare

benefits to them including social security. The Central Government also offers a personal accident insurance social security scheme for poor families which also provides benefits to tendu leaf collectors.

Elimination of Child Labour

4946. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of child labourers in India;

(b) the total fund allocated by Government for elimination of child labour in India;

(c) what is the total amount India got from ILO and other international community for elimination of child labour; and

(d) how many children have comeback to the school after implementation of NECP and IPEC programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Authentic information of child labour is generated during the decennial census. As per the 1991 Census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million.

(b) The Budget Estimate for child labour programmes during the current financial year 2000-2001 is Rs. 36 crores.

(c) and (d) As per the information received from ILO, the total expenditure/ commitment for implementation of 155 child labour projects under IPEC programme of ILO is of the order of US $ 74,05,011. About 90,500 children have been covered under the IPEC programme. Under the Scheme of NCLP, 92 National Child Labour Projects are in operation in 10 child labour endemic states for rehabilitation of 1.9 lakh children through special schools/ rehabilitation centres. As per information received from 21 NCLPs, about 13,500 children have been mainstreamed into formal school so far.

Threat to Singareni Collieries

4947. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government have requested to help the domestic coal industry like Singareni collieries to survive and ward of threat of large scale lay offs on account of imported coal coming very cheap; and